

What is claimed is:

1. A composition comprising viable sporulated oocysts of at least one species of protozoa known to cause coccidiosis, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient, and at least one surfactant capable of preventing or reducing the aggregation of sporulated oocysts, wherein the composition is sterile.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said protozoa are of the genus *Eimeria*.

3. The composition of claim 2 wherein said protozoa are selected from the group consisting of *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria praecox*, and combinations thereof.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein said protozoa comprise a plurality of species of protozoa.

5. The composition of claim 4 wherein said plurality of species comprise *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, and *Eimeria tenella*.

6. The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, and combinations thereof.

7. The composition of claim 6 wherein said surfactant is a non-ionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of Tween 20, Tween 80, Triton X-100, Triton X-200, Tergitol 15-S-9, Tergitol 15-S-12, and combinations thereof.

8. The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.05 mg/ml to about 10.0 mg/ml.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.05 mg/ml to about 2.0 mg/ml.

10. The composition of claim 8 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.1 mg/ml to about 2.0 mg/ml.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein said aggregation is at an interface.

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein said interface is selected from the group consisting of a composition-air interface, a composition-container interface, or any combination thereof.

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein said aggregation is on a container cap or stopper.

14. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises one or more dosage unit.

15. The composition of claim 14 wherein each dosage unit comprises not more than about 10X the minimum immunizing dose of said oocysts.

16. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is substantially free of bacterial contamination.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein said bacterial contamination is removed by tangential flow filtration.

18. The composition of claim 1 wherein bacterial contaminants have been removed from said composition at one or more step(s) of production.

19. The composition of claim 18 wherein said contaminants are removed by tangential flow filtration.

20. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises:

not more than about 0.8% by weight of alkali metal dichromate;

5

not more than about 0.75% chloramine by weight;

not more than about 10.0 ppm hypochlorite ion; and

not more than about 1000 mg/l hydrogen peroxide.

21. The composition of claim 1 wherein the diluent comprises water.

22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the aqueous diluent comprises 0.5X phosphate buffered saline.

23. The composition of claim 22 further comprising gentamicin.

24. The composition of claim 23 wherein said gentamicin is present in an amount of about 30 µg/ml.

25. A preparation for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient;

live sporulated oocysts of at least one species of coccidial protozoa; and

5 an amino acid;

wherein the sporulated oocysts are sanitized.

26. A preparation for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient;

5 live sporulated oocysts of at least one species of coccidial protozoa; and

a surfactant;

wherein the sporulated oocysts are sanitized.

27. The preparation of claim 26 wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of ionic detergents and non-ionic detergents.